Pench Mega Project in Chhindwara

*24. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proposal of Pench Mega Project in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh is pending with the Central Water Commission for approval/release of investment amount for many years;

(b) if so, by when this scheme will be approved; and

(c) whether this scheme is getting aid from Indo-German Bilateral Development Co-operative through its various schemes?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The Pench Diversion Project in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh was accepted by the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources in October, 1988, but it was not included in the Eighth Five Year Plan. The modified detailed project report of Pench Diversion Project was submitted by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh to Central Water Commission (CWC) in July, 2002. The CWC has completed the techno-economic appraisal of the project and found it acceptable. The State Government has been advised to obtain statutory clearance of Ministry of Environment & Forests, clearance of Central Ground Water Board and Ministry of Tribal Affairs so that the project may be considered by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources for acceptance and thereafter for investment approval by the Planning Commission. The time taken for the approval of the project depends upon the promptness with which the State Government complies with the observations of the Central appraising agencies.

(c) The Pench project is not getting financial assistance under Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme. The Government of Madhya Pradesh forwarded a list of proposals for seeking assistance under Indo-German Bilateral Cooperation on 31st December, 2004. The list included the Pench project. The Government of Madhya Pradesh was informed on 19th January, 2005 that the proposal did not have the prerequisite clearance essentially required for processing and recommending the proposal for external assistance and was requested to obtain the same.

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.